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LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the attached letter that His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of Gabon, has asked me to transmit to you on the current situation in the Republic of Congo.

I should be grateful if you would be kind enough to bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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Annex

[Original: French]

Letter dated 16 June 1997 from the President of Gabon addressed to the Secretary-General

The International Mediation Committee, meeting on 16 June 1997 in Libreville to consider the serious situation in the Congo, has arrived at the following conclusion:

The ceasefire, which has been in force since 15 June 1997, is particularly fragile. Consequently, in order to avoid a resumption of the fighting, together with the tragic consequences this would have for the people and stability of the country and even of the entire region, it is urgent to invoke forthwith the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations in order to deploy an appropriate force to Brazzaville.

The purpose of this force should be to ensure respect for the ceasefire and to contribute, as far as possible, to the promotion of an environment that is favourable to the efficient preparation and smooth progress of the presidential elections.

The Committee, which stresses the extreme urgency of these measures, has obtained the agreement of all the Congolese parties concerned and the assurance that they will cooperate with the inter-African force.

(Signed) El Hadj Omar BONGO